

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, and 27 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 16 and 21 have been amended; and claims 17-18 and 22-23 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

§103 Rejection of Claims 16-17, 20-22, and 25

In Section 6 of the Office Action, claims 16-17, 20-22, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over CASK (Japan Patent JP-11 1494434) in view of Maquaire *et al.* (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0107049; hereinafter referred to as “Maquaire”) and Cooper *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,442; hereinafter referred to as “Cooper”).

In the Background of the Specification, it was indicated that “in the computer network system 1 having such configuration described above, because the mail client 6 on the side of the recipient of the e-mail is notified of the arrival of the new e-mail only by a predetermined uniform notification method common to all clients, the mail recipient is unable to determine who is the sender of the e-mail, what its contents are, what priority of importance it has or the like at the time of reception of the e-mail.” *Background of the Specification, page 3, line 28 to page 4, line 3.*

To solve the above-described problems of the conventional e-mail system, embodiments of the present invention include systems and methods for determining the sender of the e-mail. *Specification, page 5, lines 10-17.*

For example, the structure of system claim 16, as presented herein, includes:

receiving means for receiving an electronic mail containing electronic mail sender information and a mail text;

first determining means for determining whether said electronic mail sender information corresponds to a specific registered mail account;

reading means for reading a lookup table including a plurality of preset character strings and a corresponding plurality of music files if said electronic mail sender information corresponds to said specific registered mail account;

second determining means for determining if at least one of said plurality of preset character strings is included in said mail text;

retrieving means for retrieving a music file corresponding to said at least one preset character string determined to be included in said mail text; and

means, when the electronic mail has been received, for causing the retrieved music file to be reproduced and for causing a signal to be supplied to a display means representative of the respective title and artist such that the retrieved music file is reproduced simultaneously or substantially simultaneously with the display of the respective title and artist on a screen of said display means.

(emphasis added)

Accordingly, in one aspect of claim 16, the information processing system includes receiving means; first determining means; reading means for reading a lookup table including a plurality of preset character strings and a corresponding plurality of music files if said electronic mail sender information corresponds to said specific registered mail account; second determining means for determining if at least one of said plurality of preset character strings is included in said mail text; retrieving means for retrieving a music file corresponding to said at least one preset character string determined to be included in said mail text; and a means for causing the retrieved music file to be reproduced.

By contrast, the Office Action indicates (1) CASK teaches receiving an electronic mail ...; reading a lookup table ...; outputting an alarm corresponding to the electronic mail account information; (2) Maquaire teaches receiving an incoming call deriving the originating number and playing the audio file associated with the originating number; and (3) Cooper teaches that mail send information is automatically stored. Therefore, CASK, Maquaire, and Cooper, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 16.

Based on the foregoing discussion, claim 16 should be allowable over CASK, Maquaire, and Cooper. Since claim 21, as amended herein, closely parallels, and recites substantially similar limitations as recited in, claim 16, claim 21 should also be allowable over CASK, Maquaire, and Cooper. Further, since claims 20 and 25-27 depend from one of claims 16 and 21, claims 20 and 25-27 should also be allowable over CASK, Maquaire, and Cooper.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 16-17, 20-22, and 25 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of Claims 18 and 23

In Section 7 of the Office Action, claims 18 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over CASK in view of Maquaire and Cooper, and in further view of Toyoda (U.S. Patent No. 6,441,916). Claims 18 and 23 have been canceled.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 18 and 23 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of Claims 26 and 27

In Section 8 of the Office Action, claims 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over CASK in view of Maquaire and Cooper, and in further view of Hunter *et al.* (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0111912; hereinafter referred to as “Hunter”).

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claims 16 and 21, and since claims 26 and 27 depend from claims 16 and 21, respectively, claims 26 and 27 should also be allowable over CASK, Maquaire, and Cooper. Hunter was merely cited for teaching that the music file includes a picture file associated with the respective artist.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 26 and 27 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, and 27 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

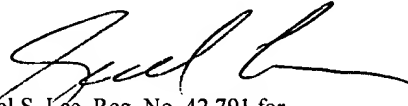
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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